

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 4 and 7 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 5 and 6 are allowed. Claims 1-3 presently stand rejected.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Fischer (6,773,030).

Analysis

Claim 1 is hereby amended to clarify the arc-like pocket that functions as a gas reservoir in the claimed invention. This feature is shown in the drawings and discussed at pages 14-16 of the specification.

According to the present invention defined by amended claim 1, when the airbag 2 is expanded as shown in Fig. 2, the cloth-like piece 9 stretches linearly due to the tensile force of the air bag 2, while the attachment side base cloth 3 at the vent hole 8 side moves away from the cloth-like piece 9 outwardly to expand in a generally circular arc, thereby keeping the vent hole 8 in an open state. At this point in time, since the arc-like pocket 22 formed between the sewn portion 10 and the vent hole 8 functions as a gas reservoir for interrupting the flow of the gas directing toward the opposed side base cloth 4 side so as to guide the interrupted gas into the vent hole 8, the gas flown in the air bag 2 is efficiently discharged outward through the vent hole 8, and the air bag 2 is expanded while an impactive expansion directing toward the occupant side is eased, as discussed in pages 14-16 of the specification.

Fischer does not teach or suggest this "arc-like pocket functioning as a gas reservoir" to guide the interrupted gas into the vent hole and to discharge the gas efficiently outward from the

vent hole. In fact, this arc-shaped pocket is not possible in Fischer because Fischer specifically provides a strap retainer 50 on the interior of the vent hole 42, which is sewn to the inside of the vent panel leaving a small gap 52 between them. Because the strap retainer 50 holds the strap 60 therein so that it lies against the portion of the air bag having the vent hole, Fisher is not capable of allowing the portion of the air bag having the vent hole to be separated from the strap to form an arc-shaped pocket.

In view of the foregoing, Fischer does not teach or suggest amended claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 are also patentable for the same reason as claim 1 by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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